

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 25-41 are amended. Thus, claims 25-41 are active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In item 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 25-41 were objected to for containing inconsistent language and for lacking clarity and precision. The Examiner kindly proposed amendments for claims 25-27 and required that similar revisions be made to claims 28-41.

Claims 25-27 have been amended to include the revisions which the Examiner kindly suggested. Claims 28-41 have also been amended to include revisions similar to those proposed by the Examiner with respect to claims 25-27.

The Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 25-41 contain consistent limitations and clearly and distinctly point out what the Applicants regard as their invention.

Furthermore, the Applicants submit that the revisions to claims 25-41 were not to broaden or narrow the scope of protection for the present invention. In particular, the Applicants note that the Examiner objected to the term “operable to” in the claims and required that the functional language of each element be recited by using an active tense verb (e.g., “said image input apparatus compensates,” instead of “said image input apparatus is operable to compensate”). The Applicants have revised the claims to remove the term “operable to” to overcome the objection to the claims, but the Applicants do not surrender any scope of protection which does not require an active operation of the image input apparatus of the present invention. The Applicants also submit that the revisions to claims 25-41 do not add new matter.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection to claims 25-41.

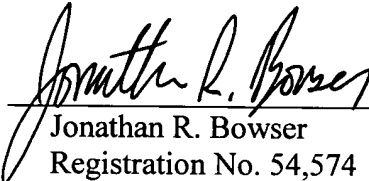
The Applicants thank the Examiner for kindly indicating, in item 7 on page 4 of the Office Action, that claims 25-41 are allowed. In view of the clarifying amendments to claims 25-41, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 25-41 are now clearly in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Response, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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